

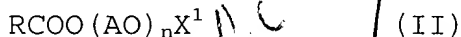
having 1 to 22 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 22 carbon atoms.

8. (Twice Amended) A method of activating a plant by applying a plant-activating agent to the plant, said plant-activating agent is capable of promoting growth of the plant by itself and ^{ce}is a compound of formula (II),



wherein R represents an alkyl or alkenyl group having 11 to 29 carbon atoms; X^1 represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl or acyl group having 1 to 30 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 30 carbon atoms; AO represents at least one group selected from oxyethylene, oxypropylene and oxybutylene groups and may be random or block; and n represents an average number of moles added and is zero to 30.

10. (Amended) A plant-activating composition ^{ce}comprising a plant-activating agent and a fertilizer agent, said plant-activating agent is a compound of formula (II),



*R³
com.
117*

wherein R represents an alkyl or alkenyl group having 11 to 29 carbon atoms; X¹ represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl or acyl group having 1 to 30 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 30 carbon atoms; AO represents at least one group selected from oxyethylene, oxypropylene and oxybutylene groups and may be random or block; and n represents an average number of moles added and is zero to 30.
